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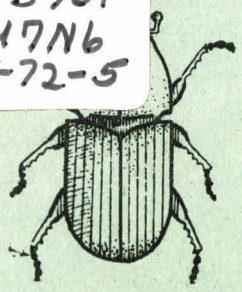

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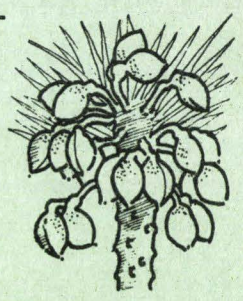

USDA FOREST SERVICE/NORTHERN REGION

Report No. I-72-5

5230
July 1972

EVALUATION OF A FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR INFESTATION SOUTH OF DEVIL'S LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

by

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In 1971, about 2,000 acres (Figure 1) of mixed hardwoods were infested by the forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria* Hubner, on the Totten Indian Reservation south of Devil's Lake, North Dakota. An aerial and ground survey of this area was made on June 15, 1972.

Defoliation could not be detected from the air, but very light feeding was evident on American basswood, *Tilia americana* L., and incidental feeding on American elm, *Ulmus americana* var. *americana*, and chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana* L.

The forest tent caterpillar was still feeding on June 15, but a few larvae were preparing to pupate. Diseased larvae were not apparent, and percent parasitism could not be determined at this time.

This infestation has been decreasing since 1970, but there seems to be enough larvae in the 2,000-acre area to continue a low-level infestation in 1973. Because damage will probably be slight in 1973, no control is recommended.

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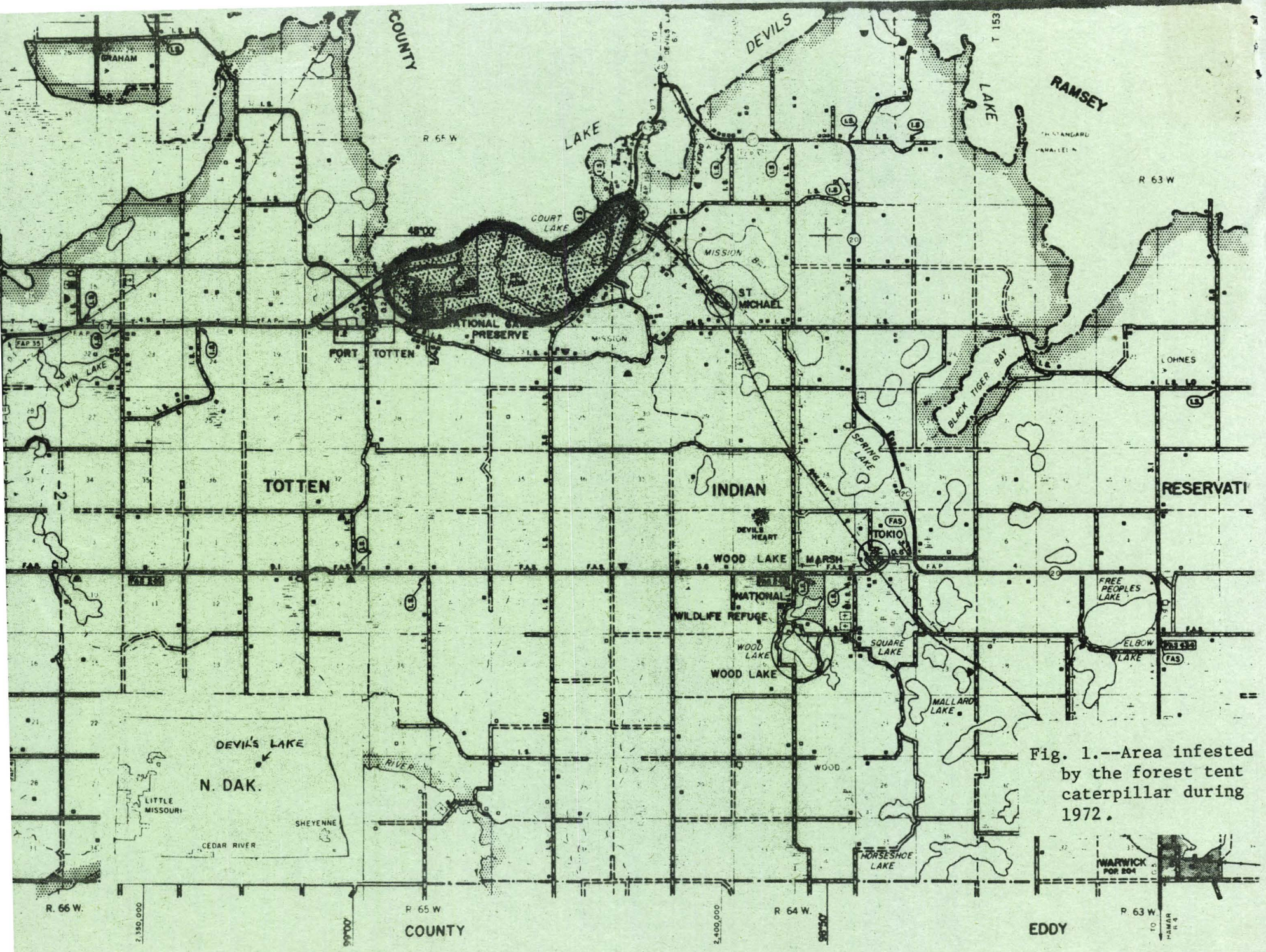

Fig. 1.--Area infested by the forest tent caterpillar during 1972.